

HIGHLIGHTS OF CABINET MEETING – FRIDAY 07 AUGUST 2026

The Cabinet met today under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, G.C.S.K., F.R.C.P. The highlights of the deliberations are as follows:

1. Cabinet has taken note that a Mauritian delegation comprising 75 persons, including athletes, coaches, officials of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, medical personnel and support staff, participated in the Commonwealth Games 2026. The Mauritian team competed in six sporting disciplines, namely Athletics (10 athletes), Para Athletics (7 athletes), Judo (10 athletes), Swimming (5 athletes), Boxing (5 athletes) and Weightlifting (2 athletes).

Mauritius recorded a historic performance at the Games by winning four medals, comprising one Gold medal in Judo, two Silver medals in Para Athletics and one Bronze medal in Boxing. Mauritius was ranked 15th among the 74 participating Commonwealth Games Associations.

Cabinet commended the outstanding performances of the medal-winning athletes and their respective coaches. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has organised a Cash Award Ceremony on 07 August 2026 and cash prizes have been presented to the athletes and coaches.

Cabinet has further taken note of the outstanding performance of Mrs Kimberley Le Court-Pienaar, MSK, who won a sprint finish at stage six of the *Tour de France Femmes* on Thursday 06 August 2026 in Tournon-sur-Rhône.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the status of building site leases for residential purposes which the Ministry of Housing and Lands has granted to low-income families, and has agreed to the annual rental in respect of building site leases being reviewed as follows:

Monthly Family Income	Annual Rental	Terms
Up to Rs48,000	Re1	One-off payment for duration of lease.
Rs48,001 to Rs100,000	Rs1,000	For the duration of the lease.
Above Rs100,000	Full rental value as assessed by the Valuation Department	To be adjusted every three years by reference to the cumulative inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index during the three-year period, which shall not exceed 15.7625% in any case. Not applicable to cases of transfer between members of the same family and of inheritance. These lessees will continue to pay an annual rental of Rs6,000.

3. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Central Water Authority (Dry Season) Regulations 2026 which will make provision for the sustainable management of the scarce water resources in light of acute rainfall deficits and seek to control the use of potable water for domestic and essential purposes mainly. The Regulations will provide for restrictions on water usage other than for domestic purpose such as:
- (a) washing of vehicles;
 - (b) cleaning of buildings, driveways and pavements;
 - (c) watering of lawn, garden and hedges;
 - (d) filling or refilling of swimming pools; and
 - (e) irrigation of sugarcane.

A person holding a legal entitlement for a right to use water from a watercourse will be allowed to use such water for irrigation if that water will otherwise be lost to the sea. Irrigation of vegetables will continue without restriction. The Regulations will become effective as from 10 August 2026 and remain valid up to 30 November 2026.

As at 04 August 2026, storage levels in the main reservoirs stood at 61.7% compared to 92.7% at the corresponding period in 2025. The Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and the Central Water Authority have embarked on a communication campaign since the past weeks on the alarming state of the reservoirs' storage levels, the rainfall deficits and the need to conserve water resources.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Central Electricity Board (CEB) will organise a donation ceremony on Wednesday 12 August 2026 at Ebène, to transfer to some 100 beneficiary households, ownership of the Solar Photovoltaic Kits already installed on their rooftops.

In the Budget Speech 2026-2027, it was announced that the CEB will donate 1,000 Solar Photovoltaic Kits to vulnerable households to enable these families to benefit from more savings on their monthly electricity bill. This measure will enhance the inclusiveness of the Renewable Energy policy of the Government.

5. Cabinet has agreed to the extension of the quarantine period declared under section 4 of the Quarantine Act 2020 for a further period of one month, that is, from 08 August 2026 to 07 September 2026, through the issue of a Notice under section 4(1) of the Quarantine Act 2020.

Public health and border control measures were introduced in June 2026, as precautionary public health interventions to minimise the risk of importation and local transmission of Ebola Virus Disease in Mauritius, following the declaration of the Ebola Virus Disease as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization on 17 May 2026.

6. Cabinet has agreed to the promulgation of the Cane (Specification of Varieties) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, which will provide for the prescription of three promising sugarcane varieties namely M 66, M 67 and M 68, recommended by the Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute and the Cane Release Committee.

7. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries signing a Grant Agreement with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa for the implementation of specific activities under a project entitled “Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in African Small Island Developing States (the African SIDS project)” for the award of a grant of up to USD639,000.

The African SIDS project is being led by the United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa. The project is being implemented in six African SIDS, namely Mauritius, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles with funding to the tune of USD9 million from the Global Environment Fund. The objective of the project is to achieve an integrated, cross sectoral sustainable management of the Blue Economy in African SIDS, through improved blue governance to build resilient communities and conserve coastal and marine ecosystem services.

Several activities are planned to be undertaken in the different countries. Each African SIDS will be responsible for the delivery of national demonstration projects. Accordingly, the “Sustainable offshore fishing approaches and associated value-addition activities among local artisanal fishing communities” project will be implemented in Mauritius.

8. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the 30th Meeting of the Seychelles-Mauritius Joint Commission of the Extended Continental Shelf held in Seychelles on 29 July 2026.

The Joint Commission was set up in 2012 under the Treaty concerning the Joint Management of the Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region between Mauritius and Seychelles and is responsible for establishing policies and regulations relating to the natural resources and related activities in the Joint Management Area, an area of 396,000km² of Extended Continental Shelf in the Mascarene Plateau Region over which Mauritius and Seychelles have joint jurisdiction on the seabed and subsoil.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity is currently reviewing the medical guidelines for the allocation of Invalid’s Basic Pension, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Attorney-General’s Office.

10. Cabinet has agreed to the naming of two wards at the National Cancer Centre at Solferino after Late Dr (Mrs) Hansa Gandhi Gunese, the first lady Gynaecologist employed in Mauritius and Late Dr Maheswarduth Gunese, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, who had donated Rs25 million for the procurement of medical equipment for the Centre.

11. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Health and Wellness enlisting the services of Professor Nizam Mamode and a team comprising three Consultant Transplant Surgeons to provide specialist clinical expertise, mentorship and hands-on training in support of the national renal transplantation programme.

12. Cabinet has taken note that Mauritius proposes to join a public pledge/declaration, together with the European Union and like-minded partners, in support of the established norms and principles of freedom of navigation.

The pledge reaffirms the importance of freedom of navigation under international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and seeks to safeguard civilian shipping and global supply chains in light of disruptions in key maritime routes, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.

13. Cabinet has taken note that the Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting the protection of intellectual property, including patents, trademarks and copyrights worldwide, will be on a working visit to Mauritius on 10 and 11 September 2026.

The visit of the Director-General will provide an opportunity to further deepen the long-standing cooperation between Mauritius and WIPO and to engage in high-level discussions on issues of mutual interest. The discussions are expected to focus on strengthening Mauritius' intellectual property ecosystem, promoting innovation and artificial intelligence, and enhancing support for enterprises in leveraging intellectual property to boost competitiveness, stimulate innovation and promote sustainable economic growth.

14. Cabinet has agreed to the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation entering into an agreement with STEMpower Inc, a US based non-profit organisation, for the establishment and support of an Innovation Lab in Mauritius. STEMpower Inc. will, inter alia:

- (a) donate laboratory equipment;
- (b) provide technical assistance for the installation of the equipment;
- (c) provide training for personnel to operate the Innovation Lab;
- (d) provide an operational budget of USD7,000 over a period of two years to meet expenditure related to consumables, furniture and any additional equipment required for the establishment of the Innovation Lab; and
- (e) support the promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education through its international network.

The Innovation Lab will serve as a facility for hands-on STEM education, innovation and Artificial Intelligence experimentation for pre-university students, university students, technopreneurs and innovators.

15. Cabinet has taken note of actions taken by the Sugar Insurance Fund Board (SIFB) following the Corporate Governance Compliance Review carried out by the Office of the Public Sector Governance (OPSG) in 2023. A Fact-Finding Committee was set up in November 2018 at the SIFB to:

- (a) review the Manuals/Standard Operating Procedures developed and the processes for Operations, Human Resource, Finance, Procurement, Internal Audit, Investment and Information Technology and assess the level of compliance;
- (b) assess the level of adherence to the National Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius (2016); and
- (c) propose recommendations for improvement.

The Committee recommended the conduct of a full Corporate Governance Review of the SIFB. The SIFB has developed a Standard Operating Procedures Manual for its various core activities and sought the assistance of the OPSG, to assess whether the formulated procedures are relevant and adequate to ensure efficient operations and adherence to good governance principles. The OPSG has drawn attention to several shortcomings and has made recommendations on the Core Functions; Support Functions; and Governance at the SIFB.

16. Cabinet has taken note that the *Réseau des compétences électorales francophones* will hold its annual *Forum des Femmes* from 23 to 25 November 2026 in Mauritius.

The Forum aligns with Mauritius' commitment to promoting gender equality and strengthening democratic institutions in our region. The Forum will comprise a training course, titled "Women in Leadership", designed for women working in electoral administration. It aims at enhancing individual capabilities within election management bodies and equipping them with new skills to enable them to spearhead projects within their organisations. Participants will combine theoretical learning with practical exercises to develop a career plan based on their specific profile of skills, strengths, and experience. The Forum will bring together around 30 delegates from French speaking countries, comprising women leaders, electoral practitioners and governance experts from across the region to discuss women's participation in electoral processes, democratic governance and political leadership.

17. Cabinet has taken note that the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms will organise a workshop on 09 and 10 September 2026, at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation, to discuss the preparation of a concept paper that will articulate the key policy considerations and guiding principles which will serve as the basis for the drafting of a comprehensive legislation regarding reforms in the Public Sector. The workshop will bring together representatives from the public, parastatal and private sectors, as well as the academia, the legal profession and the trade unions.

The proposed legislation will provide the statutory basis for the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Public Service and Administrative Reforms 2025-2029, which is currently under preparation at the level of the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms. The objective of the strategic document is to set out Government's vision for transforming the Mauritian Public Service into a modern, agile, transparent, accountable and

citizen-centric institution capable of effectively supporting national development and responding to the evolving expectations of citizens.

18. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent participation of the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries in the 3rd Edition of the African Blue Economy Week 2026 which was held in Luanda, Republic of Angola.

The Minister participated in the Ministerial High-Level Segment where he intervened as a panellist in the Ministerial Roundtable II - “Mobilising investment, finance and partnerships for Africa’s blue economy transformation”, moderated by KPMG Advisory, alongside the Minister of Finance of Angola, the Minister of Transport of Angola, the Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Deputy Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission, and the Chairman of the Board of the Agency for Private Investment and Promotion of Exports of Angola.

The Ministerial Segment culminated in the adoption of the Luanda Declaration on the African Blue Economy, which establishes a continental framework for strengthening Blue Economy governance, financing, regional cooperation and sustainable ocean management.

19. Cabinet has taken note of the appointment of Mr Abdool Rahim Domah as Chairperson and Mr Jean Bernard Guyto Devalet and Ms Vijayeta Jhurry as Directors of the Board of the National Empowerment Foundation.

Note: *Cabinet decisions are available on the internet. The address is <http://pmo.govmu.org>*

07 August 2026

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